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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/804,210	03/19/2004	Douglas P. O'Connor	44933	6519
1609	7590	05/09/2006	EXAMINER	
ROYLANCE, ABRAMS, BERDO & GOODMAN, L.L.P.			GILMAN, ALEXANDER	
1300 19TH STREET, N.W.			ART UNIT	
SUITE 600			PAPER NUMBER	
WASHINGTON,, DC 20036			2833	

DATE MAILED: 05/09/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/804,210

Applicant(s)

O'CONNOR ET AL.

Examiner

Alexander D. Gilman

Art Unit

2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 February 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 4-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 12-22 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-9 and 11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 10 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 06/03/04
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-9, 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kunz.

With regard to claims 1, 12, 15, 20 Kunz (US 5,494,457) disclose (Fig. 1) a snagless telecommunications connector, comprising:

a connector housing (14, 30) having front and rear ends, and an upper surface extending between said front and rear ends;

a latch beam (18) extending rearwardly from said front end of said housing over and adjacent said upper surface, said latch beam being deflectable to disengage said connector from a mated connection;

first and second ears (44, 46) extending outwardly from said upper surface, each of said first and second ears having a portion tapering toward said rear end of said housing; and

a rib (20) extending outwardly from said latch beam, wherein said first and second ears (44, 46) are formed unitarily with said connector housing.

Also, Kunz discloses that the housing being unitarily formed (col. 1, lines 32-36).

With regard to claim 2, Kunz discloses that said connector is an RJ-45 plug (having 8 grooves)

Art Unit: 2833

With regard to claim 4, Kunz discloses that each of said first and second ears are flush with one of side walls of said connector housing.

With regard to claim 6, Kunz discloses that said first and second ears (44, 46) extend from said upper surface above said latch beam (18).

With regard to claim 7, Kunz discloses that said latch beam (18) and said rib (20) extend rearwardly between said first and second ears.

With regard to claims 8, Kunz discloses that said first and second ears extend substantially perpendicularly from said upper surface of said connector housing.

With regard to claims 9, Kunz discloses that each of said first and second ears is flush with a side wall of said connector housing.

With regard to claim 11, , Kunz discloses that said rib (20) is unitarily formed with said latch beam (18) .

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kunz in view of Huang et al.

Kunz does not disclose that said rib extends higher than said first and second ears.

Huang et al (US D477,571) disclose (Fig. 1) that said rib (the gripped portion) extends higher than said first and second ears.

Art Unit: 2833

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to extend higher than said first and second ears, as taught by Huang et al , to conveniently operate the rib.

#### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claim 10 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 12-22 are allowed

No prior art has been found to anticipate or render obvious the presently claimed subject matter. Specifically, none of the prior art of record discloses the combination of the limitations presented including the specific configuration of the rib having the portion being tapered toward a rear end of said latch beam.

Examiner agrees with Applicants that Kunz does not suggest modification with the rib extending outwardly from the latch beam as high as the first and the second ears (claims 12, 18)

#### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments filed 02/22/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicants argue that in Kunz the solution for new connectors presented in Background section (col. 1, lines 32-36). and the solution for existing connectors (Fig. 1-8) are not related and cannot be considered together .

However, Kunz teaches the snagless plug with unitarily with wings (ears) (col. 1, lines 32-36) for new structures. The embodiment developed in Fig. 1-8 should be considered as a incorporation of snagless features (ears), known from the prior art, into the existing connectors.

Art Unit: 2833

The snagless features (ears) are similar for new and existing connectors. The latch beam and the rib are the same for new and existing structures. Hence, both new and existing connectors utilize the same snagless solution.

**THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alexander D. Gilman whose telephone number is 571 272-2004. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 10:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on 571 272-2800 ext. 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2833

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

05/05/2006

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alex Gilman".

**ALEXANDER GILMAN  
PRIMARY EXAMINER**